RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 6th May, 1987/16 *Vaisakha,* 1909 *(Saka.)*

The House rnet a eleven of the clock Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*281. [The questioner (Shri V. Narayanas... -.iy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 36 infra.]

Khurda—Bolangir Rail Line

*282. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPA-TRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted hy railways for the laying of Khurda—Bolangir rail line under South Eastern Raihvay; and

(b) if so, wha+ are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. by RITES.

(b) The total length of the project line is 289 km:-- The estimated cost is Rs. 209 crorci.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: As regards transport, emphasis ha.; been given in the Seventh Five Year Plan, that the crucial task is as a special case, to increase the* capacity of transport system in step with the economic development of the country. As such, emphasis has to be given on economically backward areas which have not *bicn* linked with .railways. The necessity of this line is being felt by the people of four districts out of which one is tribal dominated i.e. Phulbani. En ough mineral and forest resources are available in this area. A numbei of industries have come up due t< liberal industrial policy of the Stat« Government. In this regard, already a local MP., Shri Somnath Rath has written a lettwi to the hon. Minister demanding ,.«, connect this line with Gopalpur Hoint. i would also like to refer to the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee also

MR. CHAIRMAN; how put the question. Time is over.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My question is, in view of the declared policy of the Government to give priority Ic undeveloped areas, I would like to know the circumstances in which the project is said to have been abondoned.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The report is still under scrutiny.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: My second supplementary. Is it a fact that the RITE company was given the charge to conduct the survey of this ^ne from Khurda to Bolangir? If so, how much amount was paid to this company?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The survey was conducted by RITES which is a fully-owned subsidiary of the Indian Railways and they have completed the survey. The report is under scrutiny.

SHRi BASUDEV MOHAPATRA: What is the amount spent?

MR CHAIRMAN; There is no other supplementray. Next question.

Commemorative Postal Stamps

♦293. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRA-TAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: +

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-

|The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhagatram Manhar.